

Research Note

Occurrence of *Trichospirura teixeirai* (Spirurida: Rhabdochoniidae) in *Hemidactylus brookii haitianus* (Sauria: Gekkonidae) from Hispaniola

ROBERT POWELL,¹ PATRICIA J. HALL,² JOHN H. GREVE,³
AND DONALD D. SMITH⁴

¹ Department of Natural Sciences, Avila College, Kansas City, Missouri 64145,

² Pharmacia Deltech Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota 55112,

³ Department of Veterinary Pathology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011, and

⁴ Department of Medicine, University of Kansas, Kansas City, Kansas 66103

ABSTRACT: Two female *Trichospirura teixeirai* were found free in the lumina of gall bladders of *Hemidactylus brookii haitianus* from Hispaniola (Dominican Republic). These represent new site, host, and locality records, respectively.

KEY WORDS: parasite, rhabdochoniid nematode, *Trichospirura teixeirai*, lizard host, *Hemidactylus brookii haitianus*, Hispaniola, Dominican Republic.

Trichospirura teixeirai (Barus and Coy Otero, 1968) Moravec, 1975, have been previously reported only from iguanid lizards in Cuba (Barus and Coy Otero, 1969; Coy Otero, 1970; Coy Otero and Barus, 1979). Here we report its occurrence in a new host from Hispaniola. A total of 41 *Hemidactylus brookii haitianus* Meerwarth, 1901, was collected in human habitations near Juan Dolio, San Pedro de Macoris Province, in March 1988, and from Barahona, Barahona Province, in January and March 1986 and August 1987. This subspecies, endemic to the Greater Antilles, is common on Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Hispaniola (Schwartz and Henderson, 1988). Specimens were collected at night on walls and ceilings of buildings as lizards emerged from refugia occupied during the day. Animals were killed, preserved in formalin, and, after return to the laboratory, transferred to 75% ethanol. Stomachs, livers, gall bladders, small intestines, bile and pancreatic ducts, and lungs were excised and examined. Lizards were deposited in the Bobby Witcher Memorial Collection at Avila College, Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A. (BWMC 02464, 02476, 02742–02746, 03123–03135, 03303–03317); at Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina, U.S.A. (ASU 13017–13018); at the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A. (KUMNH 206693–206694); and the Parque Zoológico Nacional, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana ($N = 2$, no numbers). The last 2 specimens were

not available for examination of lungs, small intestines, and bile and pancreatic ducts.

Single nonoviferous female *Trichospirura teixeirai* were found in gall bladders of 2 hosts collected during March 1986 and August 1987 in Barahona. Both were free in the lumen. The slender nematodes are about 12 mm long, 45 μm at the junction of esophagus and intestine, and 300 μm wide at the widest point near the start of the posterior quarter of body length. The pharynx is remarkable by being long (0.95–1.00 mm) and slender (10 μm throughout its entire length, except for a slight dilation as it enters the esophagus). The muscular esophagus is about 300 μm long, the glandular esophagus about 900 μm long. The vulva is about 600 μm from the posterior tip, located in a dishlike depression, surrounded by an array of glandular tissue. Didelphic uteri are devoid of eggs. The tail is an elongated cone, the anus 300 μm from the posterior tip. As *Trichospirura teixeirai* in previously published reports were in the small intestine, this constitutes a new site record, although fixation-induced migration cannot be ruled out. Examination of excised organs revealed no other nematodes, although lungs in 23 of 39 animals were infected with pentastomes, genus *Raillietiella*. Organs of lizards in the genera *Anolis* ($N = 57$), *Leiocephalus* ($N = 17$) (Iguanidae), and *Ameiva* ($N = 19$) (Teiidae), taken from the same localities, were also examined, but no additional rhabdochoniid parasites were observed. Nematodes were deposited in the National Parasite Collection, Beltsville, Maryland 20705 (USNM Helminthological Collection Nos. 80797–80798).

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Research Note

Occurrence of *Skrjabinoptera leiocephalorum* (Spirurida: Physalopteridae) in *Leiocephalus* spp. (Sauria: Iguanidae) from Hispaniola

ROBERT POWELL,¹ PATRICIA J. HALL,² AND JOHN H. GREVE³

¹ Department of Natural Sciences, Avila College, Kansas City, Missouri 64145,

² Pharmacia Deltech Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota 55112, and

³ Department of Veterinary Pathology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011

ABSTRACT: *Skrjabinoptera leiocephalorum* were found free and attached in stomach lumina of *Leiocephalus schreibersi* and *L. barahonensis* from Hispaniola (Dominican Republic). Prevalence was 0.40 and 0.56 and intensities ranged from 1 to 250 and 1 to 45 in the 2 host species, respectively. There was no obvious relationship between prey selection and the presence of parasites. There was a positive correlation between larger size of hosts and prevalence, but none between size and intensities. Both males and females were infected, and reproductive condition was insignificant. Habitat was not related to the presence of parasites.

KEY WORDS: parasite, physalopterid nematode, *Skrjabinoptera leiocephalorum*, lizard hosts, *Leiocephalus schreibersi*, *Leiocephalus barahonensis*, Hispaniola, Dominican Republic.

Skrjabinoptera spp. occur in a number of reptilian hosts (Baker, 1987). Here we describe the occurrence of *Skrjabinoptera leiocephalorum* Greve and Powell, 1989, in 2 hosts from Hispaniola. Stomachs of 60 *Leiocephalus schreibersi* Gravenhorst, 1837, and 54 *Leiocephalus barahonensis* Schmidt, 1921, were examined for the presence of nematodes. Both host species are en-

demic to Hispaniola (Schwartz and Henderson, 1988).

Leiocephalus schreibersi were sampled from 6 and *L. barahonensis* from 5 localities in the Dominican Republic (Fig. 1). The 2 species are sympatric in Barahona (site 4). Localities, dates of collection, numbers sampled, and infected are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. Terminology follows Margolis et al. (1982). All collection sites were in acacia or agave scrub, except site 7, which was a coastal coconut palm stand near the mouth of a small stream. Sites 1, 5, 6, and 7 were near permanent water, and site 4 provided access to water via numerous leaks in the public water system. Sites 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10 were arid with no apparent access to surface water. Specimens were collected during the day, kept on ice until evening, killed, and preserved in formalin. After return from the field, animals were transferred to 75% ethanol, stomachs were excised, and contents analyzed. Lizards were deposited in the Bobby Witcher Memorial Collection at Avila College, Kansas City, Missouri (*L. schreibersi*: